

INFORMA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ REPORT

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COUNTRY El Salvador/Nicaragua

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SUBJECT Appeals to Salvadoran Civilian Elements to
Support Nicaraguan Revolutionary Movement

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1. Dr. Carlos Castillo Ibarra, Nicaraguan revolutionary leader, conferred on 10 and 13 February with Dr. Carlos Ilerena, rector of the National University of El Salvador, and Ulises Flores, student leader, and appealed to them to support the Nicaraguan revolutionary cause. Ilerena and Flores are recognized as leaders of the civilian element of the government which sides with Major Humberto Villalta, as opposed to the militarist partisans of Major Oscar Osorio.
2. In presenting his case, Castillo Ibarra explained the revolutionary picture in the following terms. The movement, far from dead, is in a position analogous to that existing a year ago, before the fall of Teodoro Picado in Costa Rica. Revolutionary arms are now abundant, but the leaders face the problem of assembling them from their various storage sites in Cuba, Guatemala, and Costa Rica without adequate air transport. The desire of President Figueres of Costa Rica to use the arms in Costa Rica against Somoza in fulfillment of his obligations is one reason for his eagerness to remain as Chief Executive.
3. Regarding revolutionary personnel, Castillo Ibarra stated that the men trained in Costa Rica were now in Guatemala. He implied that they were being maintained in one or more of the fincas on the Atlantic Coast. Castillo Ibarra added that the movement controlled two gasoline engine ships at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, which are equipped with four machine guns forward, two lateral, and one aft, in addition to one cannon and one anti-aircraft gun.
4. The movement needs \$50,000 to rent air transport. Castillo Ibarra wished to appeal to the civilians in the Salvadoran governing junta for financial aid, thus taking advantage of the current split in the junta between the civilians and the militarists. Castillo Ibarra's proposition implied that the Nicaraguan revolutionaries, once they had gained victory in their own country, would then help their Salvadoran benefactors against the militarists. In giving Castillo Ibarra his estimate of the latter's chance for success in obtaining the desired money, Flores stated he believed it possible, provided that it was done without the knowledge of the militarists.
5. Castillo Ibarra said he was sure that Dr. Humberto Costa of the junta would favor aiding the movement. The attitude of Major Osorio was harder to define, although he still might be counted on for support. Dr. Ilerena volunteered

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to approach Dr. Reinaldo Galindo Pohl of the junta, and to report the outcome of the meeting scheduled for 13 February. He was not, however, successful in reaching Galindo Pohl.

6. Llerena reported, however, that the governing junta was more united now than at any previous time, and that Major Osorio, far from being swayed by the militarist group of the Army, was actually intending to break up this group in the near future.
7. Llerena also suggested that the influence of Vicente Saenz, leader of the Union Democratica Centro Americana, might be employed to urge Major Osorio to support the Nicaraguan cause. Saenz was to visit El Salvador during the first week of March to attend the inauguration of the School of Humanities, at Llerena's invitation. Cestillo Ibarra replied that this might be too late, since he wished the problem to be resolved during the third week of February.

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[REDACTED] Comment. It is very unlikely that Osorio will change his former attitude and lend anything more than moral support to the Nicaraguan revolutionary movement. It is believed possible that one of the reasons for Villalta's removal by Osorio as Chief of the Armed Forces was that he actually signed the Central American Revolutionary Pact, and thus pledged himself to work for Somoza's downfall.

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